

LIBRARIES NI
WITHDRAWN FROM STOCK

THE DIVINE VISION
AND OTHER POEMS



THE DIVINE VISION

AND OTHER POEMS

By A. E.

Russell

*V824
Rus.
G4579.
184*

London
MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1904

All rights reserved

BELFAST
REFERENCE
LIBRARY

RUS
311
S
72
A

Copyright in the United States of America


TO

S. M. T. K.

S. V. G. R.

E. Y. J. S.

COMRADES IN THE CRAFT



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2023 with funding from
Kahle/Austin Foundation

*WHEN twilight flutters the mountains over,
The faery lights from the earth unfold :
And over the caves enchanted hover
The giant heroes and gods of old.
The bird of æther its flaming pinions
Waves over earth the whole night long :
The stars drop down in their blue dominions
To hymn together their choral song.
The child of earth in his heart grows burning,
Mad for the night and the deep unknown ;
His alien flame in a dream returning
Seats itself on the ancient throne.
When twilight over the mountains fluttered,
And night with its starry millions came,
I too had dreams : the songs I have uttered
Come from this heart that was touched by the flame.*

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE DIVINE VISION	1
THE GATES OF DREAMLAND	3
FREEDOM	5
THE MASTER SINGER	6
REMEMBRANCE	8
DANA	9
THE GREY EROS	11
REST	13
THE NUTS OF KNOWLEDGE	14
THE BURNING GLASS	16
THE TWILIGHT OF EARTH	17
NIGHT	20
THE MORNING STAR	22
A FAREWELL	24
THE MESSAGE	26
AT ONE	27
THE WELL OF ALL HEALING	29
A NEW BEING	30
A CALL OF THE SIDHE	31

CONTENTS

	PAGE
LOVE FROM AFAR	33
BABYLON	34
THE SILENCE OF LOVE	36
APHRODITE	38
REFUGE	40
THE FACES OF MEMORY	41
THE SECRET LOVE	43
THE WEAVER OF SOULS	45
TRANSFORMATION	46
CHILDREN OF LIR	47
LIGHT AND DARK	49
TWILIGHT BY THE CABIN	50
BEAUTY	52
THE VISION OF LOVE	54
A MEMORY	55
A SUMMER NIGHT	57
WHOM WE WORSHIP	59
MISTRUST	61
THE DREAM	62
THE FEAST OF AGE	63
A WAY OF ESCAPE	66
RECALL	67
THE VOICE OF THE WATERS	68
IN CONNEMARA	70
AN IRISH FACE	71
HOPE IN FAILURE	73
THE CROWN	75

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE EVERLASTING BATTLE	76
ORDEAL	77
THE CHILD OF DESTINY	79
A FAREWELL	81
THE PARTING OF WAYS	82
A MIDNIGHT MEDITATION	84
AGE AND YOUTH	87
THE JOY OF EARTH	89
RECONCILIATION	90
NOTE	93

THE DIVINE VISION

THIS mood hath known all beauty, for it sees
O'erwhelmed majesties
In these pale forms, and kingly crowns of gold
On brows no longer bold,
And through the shadowy terrors of their hell
The love for which they fell,
And how desire which cast them in the deep
Called God too from His sleep.
Oh, pity, only seer, who looking through
A heart melted like dew,
Seest the long perished in the present thus,
For ever dwell in us.
Whatever time thy golden eyelids ope
They travel to a hope ;
Not only backward from these low degrees
To starry dynasties,
But, looking far where now the silence owns
And rules from empty thrones,

THE DIVINE VISION

Thou seest the enchanted hills of heaven burn
For joy at our return.

Thy tender kiss hath memory we are kings
For all our wanderings.

Thy shining eyes already see the after
In hidden light and laughter.

THE GATES OF DREAMLAND

It's a lonely road through bogland to the lake
at Carrowmore,
And a sleeper there lies dreaming where the
water laps the shore ;
Though the moth-wings of the twilight in their
purples are unfurled,
Yet his sleep is filled with music by the masters
of the world.

There's a hand is white as silver that is fondling
with his hair :
There are glimmering feet of sunshine that are
dancing by him there :
And half-open lips of faery that were dyed a
faery red
In their revels where the Hazel Tree its holy
clusters shed.

THE GATES OF DREAMLAND

“Come away,” the red lips whisper, “all the world is weary now ;

’Tis the twilight of the ages and it’s time to quit the plough.

Oh, the very sunlight’s weary ere it lightens up the dew,

And its gold is changed and faded before it falls to you.

“Though your colleen’s heart be tender, a tenderer heart is near.

What’s the starlight in her glances when the stars are shining clear ?

Who would kiss the fading shadow when the flower-face glows above ?

’Tis the Beauty of all Beauty that is calling for your love.”

Oh, the great gates of the mountain have opened once again,

And the sound of song and dancing falls upon the ears of men,

And the Land of Youth lies gleaming flushed with rainbow light and mirth,

And the old enchantment lingers in the honey-heart of earth.

FREEDOM

I WILL not follow you, my bird,
I will not follow you.
I would not breathe a word, my bird,
To bring thee here anew.

I love the free in thee, my bird,
The lure of freedom drew ;
The light you fly toward, my bird,
I fly with thee unto.

And there we yet will meet, my bird,
Though far I go from you,
Where in the light outpoured, my bird,
Are love and freedom too.

THE MASTER SINGER

A LAUGHTER in the diamond air, a music in the
trembling grass ;

And one by one the words of light as joydrops
through my being pass :

“I am the sunlight in the heart, the silver
moon-glow in the mind ;

My laughter runs and ripples through the wavy
tresses of the wind.

I am the fire upon the hills, the dancing flame
that leads afar

Each burning hearted wanderer, and I the dear
and homeward star.

A myriad lovers died for me, and in their latest
yielded breath

I woke in glory giving them immortal life
though touched by death.

They knew me from the dawn of time : if
Hermes beats his rainbow wings,

THE MASTER SINGER

If Angus shakes his locks of light, or golden-
haired Apollo sings,
It matters not the name, the land : my joy in
all the Gods abides :
Even in the cricket in the grass some dimness
of me smiles and hides.
For joy of me the daystar glows, and in delight
and wild desire
The peacock twilight rays aloft its plumes and
blossoms of shadowy fire,
Where in the vastness too I burn through
summer nights and ages long,
And with the fiery-footed watchers shake in
myriad dance and song."

REMEMBRANCE

THERE were many burning hours on the heart-
sweet tide,
And we passed away from ourselves, forget-
ting all
The immortal moods that faded, the god who
died,
Hastening away to the King on a distant
call.

There were ruby dewdrops shed when the heart
was riven,
And passionate pleading and prayers to the
dead we had wronged ;
And we passed away, unremembering and un-
forgiven,
Hastening away to the King for the peace we
longed.

Love unremembered and heart-ache we left
behind,
We forsook them, unheeding, hastening away
in our flight ;
We knew the hearts we had wronged of old we
would find
When we came to the fold of the King for
rest in the night.

DANA

I AM the tender voice calling " Away,"
Whispering between the beatings of the heart,
And inaccessible in dewy eyes
I dwell, and all unkissed on lovely lips,
Lingering between white breasts inviolate,
And fleeting ever from the passionate touch,
I shine afar, till men may not divine
Whether it is the stars or the beloved
They follow with rapt spirit. And I weave
My spells at evening, folding with dim caress,
Aerial arms and twilight dropping hair,
The lonely wanderer by wood or shore,
Till, filled with some deep tenderness, he yields,
Feeling in dreams for the dear mother heart
He knew, ere he forsook the starry way,
And clings there, pillowed far above the smoke
And the dim murmur from the duns of men.
I can enchant the trees and rocks, and fill
The dumb brown lips of earth with mystery,

DANA

Make them reveal or hide the god. I breathe
A deeper pity than all love, myself
Mother of all, but without hands to heal :
Too vast and vague, they know me not. But
yet,

I am the heartbreak over fallen things,
The sudden gentleness that stays the blow,
And I am in the kiss that foemen give
Pausing in battle, and in the tears that fall
Over the vanquished foe, and in the highest,
Among the Danaan gods, I am the last
Council of mercy in their hearts where they
Met justice from a thousand starry thrones.

THE GREY EROS

WE are desert leagues apart ;
Time is misty ages now
Since the warmth of heart to heart
Chased the shadows from my brow.

Oh, I am so old, meseems
I am next of kin to Time,
The historian of her dreams
From the long-forgotten prime.

You have come a path of flowers.
What a way was mine to roam !
Many a fallen empire's towers,
Many a ruined heart my home.

No, there is no comfort, none.
All the dewy tender breath
Idly falls when life is done
On the starless brow of death.

THE GREY EROS

Though the dream of love may tire,
In the ages long ago
There were ruby hearts of fire—
Ah, the daughters of the dawn!

Though I am so feeble now,
I remember when our pride
Could not to the Mighty bow ;
We would sweep His stars aside.

Mix thy youth with thoughts like those—
It were but to wither thee,
But to graft the youthful rose
On the old and flowerless tree.

Age is no more near than youth
To the sceptre and the crown.
Vain the wisdom, vain the truth ;
Do not lay thy rapture down.

REST

ON me to rest, my bird, my bird :
The swaying branches of my heart
Are blown by every wind toward
The home whereto their wings depart.

Build not your nest, my bird, on me ;
I know no peace but ever sway :
O lovely bird, be free, be free,
On the wild music of the day.

But sometimes when your wings would rest,
And winds are laid on quiet eves :
Come, I will bear you breast to breast,
And lap you close with loving leaves.

THE NUTS OF KNOWLEDGE

A CABIN on the mountain side hid in a grassy
nook

Where door and windows open wide that friendly
stars may look.

The rabbit shy can patter in, the winds may
enter free,

Who throng around the mountain throne in
living ecstasy.

And when the sun sets dimmed in eve and
purple fills the air,

I think the sacred Hazel Tree is dropping
berries there

From starry fruitage waved aloft where Connla's
Well o'erflows ;

For sure the enchanted waters run through
every wind that blows.

THE NUTS OF KNOWLEDGE

I think when night towers up aloft and shakes
the trembling dew,
How every high and lonely thought that thrills
my being through
Is but a ruddy berry dropped down through
the purple air,
And from the magic tree of life the fruit falls
everywhere.

THE BURNING GLASS

A SHAFT of fire that falls like dew,
And melts and maddens all my blood,
From out thy spirit flashes through
The burning glass of womanhood.

Only so far ; here must I stay :
Nearer I miss the light, the fire ;
I must endure the torturing ray,
And with all beauty, all desire.

Ah, time long must the effort be,
And far the way that I must go
To bring my spirit unto thee,
Behind the glass, within the glow.



THE TWILIGHT OF EARTH

THE wonder of the world is o'er :

The magic from the sea is gone :

There is no unimagined shore,

No islet yet to venture on.

The Sacred Hazels' blooms are shed,

The Nuts of Knowledge harvested.

Oh, what is worth this lore of age

If time shall never bring us back

Our battle with the gods to wage

Reeling along the starry track.

The battle rapture here goes by

In warring upon things that die.

Let be the tale of him whose love

Was sighed between white Deirdre's breasts,

It will not lift the heart above

The sodden clay on which it rests.

Love once had power the gods to bring

All rapt on its wild wandering.

THE TWILIGHT OF EARTH

We shiver in the falling dew,
And seek a shelter from the storm :
When man these elder brothers knew
He found the mother nature warm,
A hearth fire blazing through it all,
A home without a circling wall.

We dwindle down beneath the skies,
And from ourselves we pass away :
The paradise of memories
Grows ever fainter day by day.
The shepherd stars have shrunk within,
The world's great night will soon begin.

Will no one, ere it is too late,
Ere fades the last memorial gleam,
Recall for us our earlier state ?
For nothing but so vast a dream
That it would scale the steeps of air
Could rouse us from so vast despair.

The power is ours to make or mar
Our fate as on the earliest morn,
The Darkness and the Radiance are
Creatures within the spirit born.
Yet, bathed in gloom too long, we might
Forget how we imagined light.

THE TWILIGHT OF EARTH

Not yet are fixed the prison bars ;
The hidden light the spirit owns
If blown to flame would dim the stars
And they who rule them from their thrones:
And the proud sceptred spirits thence
Would bow to pay us reverence.

Oh, while the glory sinks within
Let us not wait on earth behind,
But follow where it flies, and win
The glow again, and we may find
Beyond the Gateways of the Day
Dominion and ancestral sway.

1

NIGHT

BURNING our hearts out with longing
The daylight passed :
Millions and millions together,
The stars at last !

Purple the woods where the dewdrops,
Pearly and grey,
Wash in the cool from our faces
The flame of day.

Glory and shadow grow one in
The hazel wood :
Laughter and peace in the stillness
Together brood.

Hopes all unearthly are thronging
In hearts of earth :
Tongues of the starlight are calling
Our souls to birth.

NIGHT

Down from the heaven its secrets
Drop one by one ;
Where time is for ever beginning
And time is done.

There light eternal is over
Chaos and night :
Singing with dawn lips for ever,
“ Let there be light ! ”

There too for ever in twilight
Time slips away,
Closing in darkness and rapture
Its awful day

THE MORNING STAR

IN the black pool of the midnight Lugh has
slung the Morning Star,
And its foam in rippling silver whitens into day
afar

Falling on the mountain rampart piled with
pearl above our glen,
Only you and I, beloved, moving in the fields of
men.

In the dark tarn of my spirit, Love, the Morn-
ing Star is lit ;
And its halo, ever brightening, lightens into
dawn in it.

Love, a pearl-grey dawn in darkness, breathing
peace without desire ;
But I fain would shun the burning terrors of the
mid-day fire.

MORNING

Through the faint and tender airs of twilight
star on star may gaze,
But the eyes of light are blinded in the white
flame of the days,
From the heat that melts together oft a rarer
essence slips,
And our hearts may still be parted in the meeting
of the lips.

What a darkness would I gaze on when the day
had passed the west,
If my eyes were dazed and blinded by the white-
ness of a breast ?
Never through the diamond darkness could I
hope to see afar
Where beyond the pearly rampart burned the
purer Evening Star.

†

A FAREWELL

I go down from the hills half in gladness, and
 half with a pain I depart,
 Where the Mother with gentlest breathing made
 music on lip and in heart ;
 For I know that my childhood is over : a call
 comes out of the vast,
 And the love that I had in the old time like
 beauty in twilight is past.

I am fired by a Danaan whisper of battles afar
 in the world,
 And my thought is no longer of peace, for the
 banners in dream are unfurled,
 And I pass from the council of stars and of hills
 to a life that is new :
 And I bid to you stars and you mountains a
 tremulous long adieu.

A FAREWELL

I will come once again as a master, who played
here as child in my dawn

I will enter the heart of the hills where the gods
of the old world are gone.

And will war like the bright Hound of Ulla
with princes of earth and of sky.

For my dream is to conquer the heavens and
battle for kingship on high.

THE MESSAGE

Do you not feel the white glow in your breast,
my bird ?

That is the flame of love I send to you from
afar :

Not a wafted kiss, hardly a whispered word,
But love itself that flies as a white-winged star.

Let it dwell there, let it rest there, at home in
your heart :

Wafted on winds of gold, it is Love itself, the
Dove.

Not the god whose arrows wounded with bitter
smart,

Nor the purple-fiery birds of death and love.

Do not ask for the hands of love or love's soft
eyes :

They give less than love who give all, giving
what wanes.

I give you the star-fire, the heart-way to Paradise,
With no death after, no arrow with stinging
pains.

AT ONE

SOMETIMES a sudden fount of tears jets in my
heart

And oft-times golden gleams will through my
being dart :

Your cry or laugh, my sweet, though we are
far apart.

Above this hidden fount I bend and whisper
clear

More words of fonder love than if your heart
were near,

More tenderly than if my arms were round you,
dear.

I feel your gay love lights such love in me afar,
I would not have you near, for eyes and lips
might mar

The silence where we meet and star is lost in
star.

AT ONE

I think of you in peace though under alien skies :
Though death itself bereft, your love in me
 would rise
In rainbow ripples borne from your heart in
 Paradise.

THE WELL OF ALL HEALING

THERE'S a cure for all things in the well at
Ballylee

Where the scarlet cressets hang over the
trembling pool :
And joyful winds are blowing from the Land of
Youth to me,
And the heart of the earth is full.

Many and many a sunbright maiden saw the
enchanted land
With star faces glimmer up from the druid
wave :

Many and many a pain of love was soothed by
a faery hand
Or lost in the love it gave.

When the quiet with a ring of pearl shall wed
the earth,
And the scarlet berries burn dark by the stars
in the pool ;
Oh, it's lost and deep I'll be amid the windy
mirth,
While the heart of the earth is full.

A NEW BEING

I KNOW myself no more, my child,
Since thou art come to me,
Pity so tender and so wild
Hath wrapped my thoughts of thee.

These thoughts a fiery gentle rain
Are from the Mother shed,
Where many a broken heart hath lain
And many a weeping head.

A CALL OF THE SIDHE

TARRY thou yet, late lingerer in the twilight's
glory ;
Gay are the hills with song : earth's faery
children leave
More dim abodes to roam the primrose-hearted
eve,
Opening their glimmering lips to breathe some
wondrous story.
Hush, not a whisper ! Let your heart alone go
dreaming.
Dream unto dream may pass : deep in the heart
alone
Murmurs the Mighty One his solemn undertone.
Canst thou not see down the silver cloudland
streaming
Rivers of faery light, dewdrop on dewdrop
falling,
Star-fire of silver flames, lighting the dark be-
neath ?

A CALL OF THE SIDHE

And what enraptured hosts burn on the dusky
heath !

Come thou away with them for Heaven to Earth
is calling.

These are Earth's voice—her answer—spirits
thronging.

Come to the Land of Youth : the trees grown
heavy there

Drop on the purple wave the starry fruit they
bear.

Drink : the immortal waters quench the spirit's
longing.

Art thou not now, bright one, all sorrow past,
in elation,

Made young with joy, grown brother-hearted
with the vast,

Whither thy spirit wending flits the dim stars
past

Unto the Light of Lights in burning adoration.

LOVE FROM AFAR

A BURNING fire rose up within me,
You were away long miles apart ;
You could not wait the day to win me,
But came a lightning to my heart.

I call into that flaming centre
“Spirit, I love you.” Far away
Fades from the paradise I enter
The dim unreal land of day.

BABYLON

THE blue dusk ran between the streets : my
love was winged within my mind,
It left to-day and yesterday and thrice a thousand
years behind.

To-day was past and dead for me, for from
to-day my feet had run
Through thrice a thousand years to walk the
ways of ancient Babylon.

On temple top and palace roof the burnished
gold flung back the rays

Of a red sunset that was dead and lost beyond
a million days.

The tower of heaven turns darker blue, a starry
sparkle now begins ;

The mystery and magnificence, the myriad
beauty and the sins

Come back to me. I walk beneath the shadowy
multitude of towers ;

BABYLON

Within the gloom the fountain jets its pallid
mist in lily flowers.

The waters lull me and the scent of many
gardens, and I hear

Familiar voices, and the voice I love is whisper-
ing in my ear.

Oh real as in dream all this ; and then a hand
on mine is laid :

The wave of phantom time withdraws ; and
that young Babylonian maid,

One drop of beauty left behind from all the
flowing of that tide,

Is looking with the self-same eyes, and here in
Ireland by my side.

Oh light our life in Babylon, but Babylon has
taken wings,

While we are in the calm and proud procession
of eternal things.



THE SILENCE OF LOVE

I COULD praise you once with beautiful words
ere you came

And entered my life with love in a wind of
flame.

I could lure with a song from afar my bird
to its nest,

But with pinions drooping together silence is
best.

In the Land of Beautiful Silence the winds are
laid,

And life grows quietly one in the cloudy shade.

I will not waken the passion that sleeps in the
heart,

For the winds that blew us together may blow
us apart.

THE SILENCE OF LOVE

Fear not the stillness ; for doubt and despair
shall cease

With the gentle voices guiding us into peace.

Our dreams will change as they pass through
the gates of gold,

And Quiet, the tender shepherd, shall keep the
fold.

APHRODITE

Not unremembering we pass our exile from the
starry ways :

One timeless hour in time we caught from the
long night of endless days.

With solemn gaiety the stars danced far with-
drawn on elfin heights :

The lilac breathed amid the shade of green and
blue and citron lights.

But yet the close enfolding night seemed on the
phantom verge of things,

For our adoring hearts had turned within from
all their wanderings :

For beauty called to beauty, and there thronged
at the enchanter's will

The vanished hours of love that burn within
the Ever-living still.

And sweet eternal faces put the shadows of the
earth to rout,

APHRODITE

And faint and fragile as a moth your white hand
fluttered and went out.

Oh, who am I who tower beside this goddess of
the twilight air ?

The burning doves fly from my heart, and melt
within her bosom there.

I know the sacrifice of old they offered to the
mighty queen,

And this adoring love has brought us back the
beauty that has been.

As to her worshippers she came descending from
her glowing skies,

So Aphrodite I have seen with shining eyes look
through your eyes :

One gleam of the ancestral face which lighted
up the dawn for me :

One fiery visitation of the love the gods desire
in thee !

REFUGE

TWILIGHT, a timid fawn, went glimmering by,
And Night, the dark-blue hunter, followed
fast,
Ceaseless pursuit and flight were in the sky,
But the long chase had ceased for us at last.

We watched together while the driven fawn
Hid in the golden thicket of the day.
We, from whose hearts pursuit and flight were
gone,
Knew on the hunter's breast her refuge lay.

THE FACES OF MEMORY

DREAM faces bloom around your face
Like flowers upon one stem ;
The heart of many a vanished race
Sighs as I look on them.

The sun rich face of Egypt glows,
The eyes of Eire brood,
With whom the golden Cyprian shows
In lovely sisterhood.

Your tree put forth these phantom flowers
In ages past away :
They had the love in other hours
I give to you to-day.

One light their eyes have, as may shine
One star on many a sea,
They look that tender love on mine
That lights your glance on me.

THE FACES OF MEMORY

They fade in you ; their lips are fain
To meet the old caress :
And all their love is mine again
As lip to lip we press.

THE SECRET LOVE

x

You and I have found the secret way,
None can bar our love or say us nay :
All the world may stare and never know
You and I are twined together so.

You and I for all his vaunted width
Know the giant Space is but a myth ;
Over miles and miles of pure deceit
You and I have found our lips can meet.

You and I have laughed the leagues apart
In the soft delight of heart to heart.
If there's a gulf to meet or limit set,
You and I have never found it yet.

You and I have trod the backward way
To the happy heart of yesterday,
To the love we felt in ages past.
You and I have found it still to last.

THE SECRET LOVE

You and I have found the joy had birth
In the angel childhood of the earth,
Hid within the heart of man and maid.
You and I of Time are not afraid.

You and I can mock his fabled wing,
For a kiss is an immortal thing.
And the throb wherein those old lips met
Is a living music in us yet.

THE WEAVER OF SOULS

WHO is this unseen messenger
For ever between me and her,
Who brings love's precious merchandise,
The golden breath, the dew of sighs,
And the wild, gentle thoughts that dwell
Too fragile for the lips to tell,
Each at their birth, to us before
A heaving of the heart is o'er.
Who art thou, unseen messenger ?

I think, O Angel of the Lord,
You make our hearts to so accord
That those who hear in after hours
May sigh for love as deep as ours ;
And seek the magic that can give
An Eden where the soul may live,
Nor need to walk a road of clay
With stumbling feet, nor fall away
From thee, O Angel of the Lord.

TRANSFORMATION

IN other climes as the times shall fleet
 You yet may the hero be,
And a loving heart may beat, my sweet,
 In a woman's breast for thee.

Your flight shall be in the height above,
 My wings droop low on the lea.
For the eagle must grow a dove, my love,
 And the dove an eagle be.

CHILDREN OF LIR

WE woke from our sleep in the bosom where
cradled together we lay :

The love of the Dark Hidden Father went with
us upon our way.

And gay was the breath in our being, and never
a sorrow or fear

Was on us, as singing together, we flew from
the infinite Lir.

Through nights lit with diamond and sapphire
we raced with the Children of Dawn,

A chain that was silver and golden linked spirit
to spirit, my swan.

Till day in the heavens passed over, and still
grew the beat of our wings,

And the Breath of the Darkness enfolded to
teach us unspeakable things.

CHILDREN OF LIR

Yet lower we fell and for comfort our pinionless
spirits had now

The leaning of bosom to bosom, the lifting of
lip unto brow.

Though chained to the earth yet we mourned
not the loss of our heaven above,

But passed from the vision of Beauty to the
fathomless being of Love.

Still gay is the breath in our being, we wait for
the Bell Branch to ring

To call us away to the Father, and then we will
rise on the wing,

And fly through the twilights of time till the
home lights of heaven appear ;

Our spirits through love and through longing
made one in the infinite Lir.

LIGHT AND DARK

Nor the soul that's whitest
 Wakens love the sweetest :
When the heart is lightest
 Oft the charm is fleetest.

While the snow-frail maiden,
 Waits the time of learning,
To the passion laden
 Turn with eager yearning.

While the heart is burning
 Heaven with earth is banded :
To the stars returning
 Go not empty-handed.

Ah, the snow-frail maiden !
 Somehow truth has missed her,
Left the heart unladen
 For its burdened sister.

TWILIGHT BY THE CABIN

DUSK, a pearl-grey river, o'er
Hill and vale puts out the day—
What do you wonder at, asthore,
What's away in yonder grey?

Dark the eyes that linger long—
Dream-fed heart, awake, come in,
Warm the hearth and gay the song :
Love with tender words would win.

Fades the eve in dreamy fire,
But the heart of night is lit :
Ancient beauty, old desire,
By the cabin doorway flit.

This is Etain's land and line,
And the homespun cannot hide
Kinship with a race divine,
Thrill of rapture, light of pride.

TWILIGHT BY THE CABIN

There her golden kinsmen are :

And her heart a moment knew
Angus like the evening star
Fleeting through the dusk and dew.

Throw the woman's mask away :

Wear the opal glimmering dress ;
Let the feathered starlight ray
Over every gleaming tress.

Child of Etain, wherefore leave

Light and laughter, joyful years,
For the earth's grey coloured eve
Ever dropping down with tears?

Was it for some love of old ?

Ah, reveal thyself. The bars
On the gateway would not hold :
He will follow to the stars.

BEAUTY



My spirit would have beauty to build its magic
art

Come hither, star of evening, and dwell within
my heart

Oh, twilight, fall in pearl dew, each healing
drop may bring

Some image of the song the Quiet seems to sing.

My spirit would have beauty to offer at the
shrine,

And turn dull earth to gold and water into
wine,

And burn in fiery dreams each thought till
thrice refined

It may have power to mirror the mighty
Master's mind.

BEAUTY

My spirit would have beauty to draw thee nigh,
my bird.

I seek the lips that spake thee, sung thee, a
starry word.

I'd breathe anew that music, and lure thee from
afar,

And still thy quivering pinions at peace in thy
own star.

THE VISION OF LOVE

THE twilight fledted away in pearl on the
stream,

And night, like a diamond dome, stood still in
our dream.

Your eyes like burnished stones or as stars were
bright

With the sudden vision that made us one with
the night.

We loved in infinite spaces, forgetting here

The breasts that were lit with life and the lips
so near ;

Till the wizard willows waved in the wind and
drew

Me away from the fulness of love and down to
you.

Our love was so vast that it filled the heavens
up :

But the soft white form I held was an empty
cup,

When the willows called me back to earth with
their sigh,

And we moved as shades through the deep that
was you and I.

A MEMORY

You remember, dear, together
Two children, you and I,
Sat once in the autumn weather,
Watching the autumn sky.

There was some one round us straying
The whole of the long day through,
Who seemed to say, "I am playing
At hide and seek with you."

And one thing after another
Was whispered out of the air,
How God was a big, kind brother
Whose home is in everywhere.

His light like a smile comes glancing
Through the cool, cool winds as they pass,
From the flowers in heaven dancing
To the stars that shine in the grass.

From the clouds in deep blue wreathing
And most from the mountains tall,
But God like a wind goes breathing
A dream of Himself in all.

A MEMORY

The heart of the Wise was beating
Sweet, sweet, in our hearts that day :
And many a thought came fleeting
And fancies solemn and gay.

We were grave in our way divining
How childhood was taking wings,
And the wonder world was shining
With vast eternal things.

The solemn twilight fluttered
Like the plumes of seraphim,
And we felt what things were uttered
In the sunset voice of Him.

We lingered long, for dearer
Than home were the mountain places
Where God from the stars dropt nearer
Our pale, dreamy faces.

Our very hearts from beating
We stilled in awed delight,
For spirit and children were meeting
In the purple, ample night.

A SUMMER NIGHT

HER mist of primroses within her breast
Twilight hath folded up, and o'er the west,
Seeking remoter valleys long hath gone,
Not yet hath come her sister of the dawn.
Silence and coolness now the earth enfold,
Jewels of glittering green, long mists of gold,
Hazes of nebulous silver veil the height,
And shake in tremors through the shadowy
night.

Heard through the stillness, as in whispered
words,
The wandering God-guided wings of birds
Ruffle the dark. The little lives that lie
Deep hid in grass join in a long-drawn sigh
More softly still; and unheard through the blue
The falling of innumerable dew,
Lifts with grey fingers all the leaves that lay
Burned in the heat of the consuming day.
The lawns and lakes lie in this night of love,

A SUMMER NIGHT

Admitted to the majesty above.
Earth with the starry company hath part ;
The waters hold all heaven within their heart,
And glimmer o'er with wave-lips everywhere
Lifted to meet the angel lips of air.
The many homes of men shine near and far,
Peace-laden as the tender evening star,
The late home-coming folk anticipate
Their rest beyond the passing of the gate,
And tread with sleep-filled hearts and drowsy
feet.

Oh, far away and wonderful and sweet
All this, all this. But far too many things
Obscuring, as a cloud of seraph wings
Blinding the seeker for the Lord behind,
I fall away in weariness of mind.
And think how far apart are I and you,
Beloved, from those spirit children who
Felt but one single Being long ago,
Whispering in gentleness and leaning low
Out of its majesty, as child to child.
I think upon it all with heart grown wild.
Hearing no voice, howe'er my spirit broods,
No whisper from the dense infinitudes,
This world of myriad things whose distance awes.
Ah me ; how innocent our childhood was !

WHOM WE WORSHIP

I WOULD not have the love of lips and eyes,
The ancient ways of love :
But in my heart I built a Paradise,
A nest there for the dove.

I felt the wings of light that fluttered through
The gate I held apart :
And all without was shadow, but I knew
The bird within my heart.

Then, while the innermost with music beat,
The voice I loved so long
Seemed only the dream echo faint and sweet
Of a far sweeter song.

I could not even bear the thought I felt
Of Thee and Me therein ;
And with white heat I strove the veil to melt
That love to love might win.

WHOM WE WORSHIP

But ah, my dreams within their fountain fell ;
 Not to be lost in thee,
But with the high ancestral love to dwell
 In its lone ecstasy.

MISTRUST

74

You look at me with wan, bright eyes
When in the deeper world I stray :
You fear some hidden ambush lies
In wait to call me, "Come away."

What if I see behind the veil
Your starry self beseeching me,
Or at its stern command grow pale,
"Let her be free, let her be free?"

THE DREAM

I WOKE to find my pillow wet
 With tears for deeds deep hid in sleep.
I knew no sorrow here, but yet
 The tears fell softly through the deep.

Your eyes, your other eyes of dream,
 Looked at me through the veil of blank ;
I saw their joyous, starlit gleam
 Like one who watches rank on rank.

His victor airy legions wind
 And pass before his awful throne—
Was there thy loving heart unkind,
 Was I thy captive all o'erthrown?

THE FEAST OF AGE

SEE where the light streams over Connla's
fountain

Starward aspire !

The sacred sign upon the holy mountain
Shines in white fire :

Wavering and flaming yonder o'er the snows
The diamond light

Melts into silver or to sapphire glows,
Night beyond night :

And from the Heaven of Heaven descends on
earth

A dew divine.

Come, let us mingle in the starry mirth
Around the shrine.

O Earth, Enchantress, Mother, to our home
In thee we press,

Thrilled by thy fiery breath and wrapt in some
Vast tenderness.

The homeward birds, uncertain o'er their nest
Wheel in the dome,

Fraught with dim dreams of more enraptured
rest,

THE FEAST OF AGE

Another home.

But gather ye, to whose undarkened eyes

Night is as day,

Leap forth, immortals, Birds of Paradise,

In bright array,

Robed like the shining tresses of the sun,

And by his name

Call from his haunt divine, the ancient one

Our Father Flame.

Aye, from the wonder light, heart of our star,

Come now, come now.

Sun-breathing spirit, ray thy lights afar :

Thy children bow,

Hush with more awe the heart ; the bright-
browed races

Are nothing worth,

By those dread gods from out whose awful faces

The earth looks forth

Infinite pity set in calm, whose vision cast

Adown the years

Beholds how beauty burns away at last

Their children's tears.

Now while our hearts the ancient quietness

Floods with its tide,

The things of air and fire and height no less

In it abide ;

THE FEAST OF AGE

And from their wanderings over sea and shore
 They rise as one
Unto the vastness, and with us adore
 The midnight sun,
And enter the innumerable All
 And shine like gold,
And starlike gleam in the immortal's hall,
 The heavenly fold,
And drink the sun-breaths from the Mother's
 lips
 Awhile, and then
Fail from the light and drop in dark eclipse
 To earth again,
Roaming along by heaven-hid promontory
 And valley dim,
Weaving a phantom image of the glory
 They knew in Him.
Out of the fulness flow the winds, their song
 Is heard no more,
Or hardly breathes a mystic sound along
 The dreamy shore,
Blindly they move, unknowing as in trance ;
 Their wandering
Is half with us, and half an inner dance,
 Led by the King.

A WAY OF ESCAPE ✕

THERE'S a way of escape through the Gate of
Sorrow,
A light at the end of the Path of Pain :
But our joy and our love can have no to-morrow,
And to drink is to sink to the earth again.

There is death in the breath when our lips draw
nigher,
And we lay waste the plain for a flower to
grow ;
And we build up the tower of an hour's desire
With dust from the pit of its overthrow.

RECALL

WHAT call may draw thee back again,
Lost dove, what art, what charm may please ?
The tender touch, the kiss, are vain,
For thou wert lured away by these.

Oh, must we use the iron hand,
And mask with hate the holy breath,
With alien voice give love's command,
As they through love the call of death ?

THE VOICE OF THE WATERS ♣

WHERE the Greyhound River windeth through
a loneliness so deep,
Scarce a wild fowl shakes the quiet that the
purple boglands keep,
Only God exults in silence over fields no man
may reap.

Where the silver wave with sweetness fed the
tiny lives of grass
I was bent above, my image mirrored in the
fleeting glass,
And a voice from out the water through my
being seemed to pass.

“Still above the waters brooding, spirit, in thy
timeless quest ;
Was the glory of thine image trembling over
east and west
Not divine enough when mirrored in the morn-
ing water’s breast ?”

THE VOICE OF THE WATERS

With the sighing voice that murmured I was
borne to ages dim
Ere the void was lit with beauty breathed upon
by seraphim,
We were cradled there together folded in the
peace in Him.

One to be the master spirit, one to be the slave
awoke,
One to shape itself obedient to the fiery words
we spoke,
Flame and flood and stars and mountains from
the primal waters broke.

I was huddled in the heather when the vision
failed its light,
Still and blue and vast above me towered aloft
the solemn height,
Where the stars like dewdrops glistened on the
mountain slope of night.

IN CONNEMARA

WITH eyes all untroubled she laughs as she
 passes,
 Bending beneath the creel with the seaweed
 brown,
Till evening with pearl-dew dims the shining
 grasses
 And night lit with dreamlight enfolds the
 sleepy town.

Then she will wander, her heart all a laughter,
 Tracking the dream star that lights the purple
 gloom.
She follows the proud and golden races after,
 As high as theirs her spirit, as high will be
 her doom.

AN IRISH FACE

Not her own sorrow only that hath place
Upon yon gentle face.
Too slight have been her childhood's years to
 gain
The imprint of such pain.
It hid behind her laughing hours, and wrought
Each curve in saddest thought
On brow and lips and eyes. With subtle art
It made that little heart
Through its young joyous beatings to prepare
A quiet shelter there,
Where the Immortal Sorrows might find a home.
And many there have come ;
Bowed in a mournful mist of golden hair
Deirdre hath entered there.
And shrouded in a fall of pitying dew,
Weeping the friend he slew,
The Hound of Ulla lies, with those who shed
Tears for the Wild Geese fled.

AN IRISH FACE

And all the lovers on whom fate had warred
Cutting the Silver Cord
Enter, and softly breath by breath they mould
The young heart to the old,
The old protest, the old pity, whose power
Are gathering to the hour
When their knit silence shall be mightier far
Than leagued empires are.
And dreaming of the sorrow on this face
We grow of lordlier race,
Could shake the rooted rampart of the hills
To shield her from all ills,
And through a deep adoring pity won
Grow what we dream upon.

HOPE IN FAILURE

ke

THOUGH now thou hast failed and art fallen,
despair not because of defeat,
Though lost for a while be thy heaven and weary
of earth be thy feet,
For all will be beauty about thee hereafter
through sorrowful years,
And lovely the dews for thy chilling and ruby
thy heart-drip of tears.

The eyes that had gazed from afar on a beauty
that blinded the eyes
Shall call forth its image for ever, its shadow in
alien skies.
The heart that had striven to beat in the heart
of the Mighty too soon
Shall still of that beating remember some errant
and faltering tune.

HOPE IN FAILURE

For thou hast but fallen to gather the last of
the secrets of power ;
The beauty that breathes in thy spirit shall shape
of thy sorrow a flower,
The pale bud of pity shall open the bloom of
its tenderest rays,
The heart of whose shining is bright with the
light of the Ancient of Days.

THE CROWN

I WORE in joy a radiant star ;
 Its rays flew forth into the night ;
It made them glad who watched afar,
 And filled their gloom with happy light.

Their eyes no more the light may win,
 And all the loves are changed to scorns.
The rays of light pierce deep within,
 The star is now my crown of thorns.

THE EVERLASTING BATTLE

WHEN in my shadowy hours I pierce the hidden
heart of hopes and fears,
They change into immortal joys or end in im-
memorial tears.
Moytura's battle still endures and in this human
heart of mine
The golden sun powers with the might of demon
darkness interwine.

I think that every teardrop shed still flows from
Balor's eye of doom,
And gazing on his ageless grief my heart is
filled with ageless gloom :
I close my ever-weary eyes and in my bitter
spirit brood
And am at one in vast despair with all the
demon multitude.

THE EVERLASTING BATTLE

But in the lightning flash of hope I feel the
sun-god's fiery sling

Has smote the horror in the heart where clouds
of demon glooms take wing,

I shake my heavy fears aside and seize the
flaming sword of will

I am of Dana's race divine and know I am im-
mortal still.

ORDEAL

Love and pity are pleading with me this hour.

What is this voice that stays me forbidding to
yield,
Offering beauty, love, and immortal power,
Æons away in some far-off heavenly field ?

Though I obey thee, Immortal, my heart is
sore.

Though love be withdrawn for love it bitterly
grieves :
Pity withheld in the breast makes sorrow more.
Oh that the heart could feel what the mind
believes !

Cease, O love, thy fiery and gentle pleading.
Soft is thy grief, but in tempest through me it
rolls.

Dreamst thou not whither the path is leading
Where the Dark Immortal would shepherd
our weeping souls ?

THE CHILD OF DESTINY

THIS is the hero-heart of the enchanted isle,
Whom now the twilight children tenderly en-
fold,
Pat with their pearly palms and crown with
elfin gold,
While in the mountain's breast his brothers
watch and smile.
Who now of Dana's host may guide these
dancing feet ?
What bright immortal hides and through a
child's light breath
Laughs an immortal joy—Angus of love and
death
Returned to make our hearts with dream and
music beat ?
Or Lugh leaves heavenly wars to free his ancient
land ;
Not on the fiery steed maned with tumultuous
flame
As in the Fomor days the sunbright chieftain
came,
But in this dreaming boy, more subtle conquest
planned.

THE CHILD OF DESTINY

Or does the Mother brood some deed of sacrifice ?

Her heart in his laid bare to hosts of wounding spears,

Till love immortal melt the cruel eyes to tears,

Or on his brow be set the heroes' thorny prize.

See ! as some shadows of a darker race draw near,

How he compels their feet, with what a proud command !

What is it waves and gleams ? Is that a Silver Hand

Whose light through delicate lifted fingers shines so clear ?

Night like a glowing seraph o'er the kingly boy

Watches with ardent eyes from his own ancient home ;

And far away, rocking in living foam

The three great waves leap up exulting in their joy,

Remembering the past, the immemorial deeds

The Danaan gods had wrought in guise of mortal men,

Their elemental hearts madden with life again,

And shaking foamy heads toss the great ocean steeds.

A FAREWELL

ONLY in my deep heart I love you, sweetest
heart.

Many another vesture hath the soul, I pray
Call me not forth from this. If from the light
I part
Only with clay I cling unto the clay.

And ah ! my bright companion, you and I
must go

Our ways, unfolding lonely glories, not our
own,
Nor from each other gathered, but an inward
glow
Breathed by the Lone One on the seeker
lone.

If for the heart's own sake we break the heart,
we may

When the last ruby drop dissolves in diamond
light
Meet in a deeper vesture in another day.
Until that dawn, dear heart, good-night, good-
night.

THE PARTING OF WAYS

THE skies from black to pearly grey
Had veered without a star or sun ;
Only a burning opal ray
Fell on your brow when all was done.

Aye, after victory, the crown ;
Yet through the fight no word of cheer ;
And what would win and what go down
No word could help, no light make clear.

A thousand ages onward led
Their joys and sorrows to that hour ;
No wisdom weighed, no word was said,
For only what we were had power.

There was no tender leaning there
Of brow to brow in loving mood ;
For we were rapt apart, and were
In elemental solitude.

THE PARTING OF WAYS

We knew not in redeeming day
Whether our spirits would be found
Floating along the starry way,
Or in the earthly vapours drowned.

Brought by the sunrise-coloured flame
To earth, uncertain yet, the while
I looked at you, there slowly came,
Noble and sisterly, your smile.

We bade adieu to love the old ;
We heard another lover then,
Whose forms are myriad and untold,
Sigh to us from the hearts of men.

A MIDNIGHT MEDITATION 7

How often have I said,
“ We may not grieve for the immortal dead.”
And now, poor blenchèd heart.
Thy ruddy hues all tremulous depart.
Why be with fate at strife
Because one passes on from death to life,
Who may no more delay
Rapt from our strange and pitiful dream away
By One with ancient claim
Who robes her with the spirit like a flame.
Not lost this high belief—
Oh, passionate heart, what is thy cause for grief ?
Is this thy sorrow now,
She in eternal beauty may not bow
Thy troubles to efface
As in old time a head with gentle grace
All tenderly laid by thine
Taught thee the nearness of the love divine.
Her joys no more for thee

A MIDNIGHT MEDITATION

Than the impartial laughter of the sea,
Her beauty no more fair
For thee alone, but starry, everywhere.
Her pity dropped for you
No more than heaven above with healing dew
Favours one home of men—
Ah ! grieve not ; she becomes herself again,
And passed beyond thy sight
She roams along the thought-swept fields of light,
Moving in dreams until
She finds again the root of ancient will,
The old heroic love
That emptied once the heavenly courts above.
The angels heard from earth
A mournful cry which shattered all their mirth,
Raised by a senseless rout
Warring in chaos with discordant shout,
And that the pain might cease
They grew rebellious in the Master's peace ;
And falling downward then
The angelic lights were crucified in men ;
Leaving so radiant spheres
For earth's dim twilight ever wet with tears
That through those shadows dim
Might breathe the lovely music brought from
Him.

A MIDNIGHT MEDITATION

And now my grief I see
Was but that ancient shadow part of me,
Not yet attuned to good,
Still blind and senseless in its warring mood,
I turn from it and climb
To the heroic spirit of the prime,
The light that well foreknew
All the dark ways that it must journey through.
Yet seeing still a gain,
A distant glory o'er the hills of pain,
Through all that chaos wild
A breath as gentle as a little child,
Through earth transformed, divine,
The Christ-soul of the universe to shine.

AGE AND YOUTH

WE have left our youth behind :
Earth is in its baby years :
Void of wisdom cries the wind,
And the sunlight knows no tears.

When shall twilight feel the awe,
All the rapt thought of the sage,
And the lips of wind give law
Drawn from out their lore of age ?

When shall earth begin to burn
With such love as thrills my breast ?
When shall we together turn
To our long, long home for rest ?

Child and father, we grow old
While you laugh and play with flowers ;
And life's tale for us is told
Holding only empty hours.

AGE AND YOUTH

Giant child, on you await

All the hopes and fears of men.

In thy fulness is our fate—

What till then, oh, what till then?

THE JOY OF EARTH

OH, the sudden wings arising from the ploughed
fields brown

Showered aloft in spray of song the wildbird
twitter floats

O'er the unseen fount awhile, and then comes
dropping down

Nigh the cool brown earth to hush enraptured
notes.

Far within a dome of trembling opal throbs the
fire,

Mistily its rain of diamond lances shed below
Touches eyes and brows and faces lit with wild
desire

For the burning silence whither we would go.

Heart, O heart, once more it is the ancient joy
of earth

Breathes in thee and flings the wild wings sun-
ward to the dome

To the light where all the Children of the Fire
had birth

Though our hearts and footsteps wander far
from home.

RECONCILIATION

✧ I BEGIN through the grass once again to be
bound to the Lord ;
I can see, through a face that has faded, the
face full of rest
Of the Earth, of the Mother, my heart with her
heart in accord,
As I lie 'mid the cool green tresses that mantle
her breast
I begin with the grass once again to be bound to
the Lord.

By the hand of a child I am led to the throne of
the King
For a touch that now fevers me not is forgotten
and far,
And his infinite sceptred hands that sway us can
bring
Me in dreams from the laugh of a child to the
song of a star.
On the laugh of a child I am borne to the joy of
the King.

*THE sweetest song was ever sung
May soothe you but a little while :
The gayest music ever rung
Shall yield you but a fleeting smile.*

*The well I digged you soon shall pass :
You may but rest with me an hour :
Yet drink, I offer you the glass,
A moment of sustaining power,*

*And give to you, if it be gain,
Whether in pleasure or annoy,
To see one elemental pain,
One light of everlasting joy.*

NOTE

As the mythological references made in a few poems may partially obscure the meaning for those unacquainted with Celtic tradition, I have appended here a brief commentary on the names mentioned.

Angus, the Celtic Eros. In the bardic stories he is described as a tall, golden-haired youth playing on a harp and surrounded by singing birds. The kisses of these birds created love and also brought death.

Balor, the prince of the dark powers. His eye turned — every living thing it rested on into stone. He was killed at the battle of Moytura by Lugh the Sun-god.

Dana, the Hibernian mother of the gods who were named from her Tuatha De Danaan, or the Tribes of the goddess Dana. They are also sometimes called the Sidhe.

Etain, a Celtic goddess who is the subject of a famous

NOTE

story, "The Wooing of Etain." She left the heaven world and became the wife of an ancient Irish king.

Lir, the Oceanus of Celtic mythology. Probably the Great Deep or original divinity from whom all sprang. His son Mananan MacLir was the most spiritual divinity known to the ancient Gael. Lir is more familiar as the father of the children who were changed into swans by magic, and who lived for long ages on the waters around the Irish coast. The story of the fate of the children of Lir was probably in its earliest form a mythological account of the descent of the spirit from the Heaven-world to the Earth and its final redemption.

Lugh, the great god of light who led the De Danaans at the battle of Moytura, and who slew Balor of the Evil Eye by a cast from his sling. He is a Celtic Hermes or Apollo.

Fomor, the dark powers who were opposed to the hosts of light, the Tuatha De Danaan. They enslaved the latter for a time until the De Danaans rose, led by Lugh the Sun-god, and defeated the Fomors in the battle of Moytura.

Silver Hand. Nuada, one of the Danaan divinities, is called Nuada of the Silver Hand.

Hound of Ulla. Cuculain, the great champion of the Red Branch cycle of tales.

NOTE

Sacred Hazel, the Celtic tree of life. It grew over Connla's Well, and the fruit which fell from it were the Nuts of Knowledge which give wisdom and inspiration. Connla's Well is a Celtic equivalent of the First Fountain of mysticism. As an old story states, "The folk of many arts have all drunk from that fountain."

"*The three great waves*" are "the wave of Toth, the wave of Rury, and the long, slow, white-foaming wave of Cluna." In the bardic stories these three mystical waves shout round the coast of Ireland in recognition of great kings and heroes.

"*The Feast of Age*," the druidic form of the mysteries. It was instituted by Mananan MacLir, and whoever partook of the feast became immortal.

THE END

Printed by R. & R. CLARK, LIMITED, Edinburgh.

V 824 RUS

REFERENCE LIBRARY

[illegible]

P. 11



KR-206-202

